

Camp San Luis Obispo's SCHOOLHOUSE RULES!

***CSLO is the Perfect
Regional Training Center!***

As military action shifts from direct combat and special operations to peacekeeping and humanitarian missions around the world, Camp San Luis Obispo is swinging into gear with quality training programs to support the continuing global war on terrorism.

In addition to Army leadership schools for officers and noncommissioned officers, Camp San Luis Obispo is also the training nerve center for the Military Support to Civilian Agencies, the National Interagency Counterdrug Institute, the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) and several Youth Leadership Development Programs. The curriculums cover a broad scope of civilian

and military skills, philosophies, and experiences that makes the Camp's schoolhouses ideal to support Homeland Security and Homeland Defense missions.

The CSTI is a training arm of the State Office of Emergency Services. The school teaches law enforcement officers and other first responders special tasks for antiterrorism and hazardous material missions. This gives the state-run post the flexibility to bridge military and civilian operating systems. Both of California's Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams have trained under CSTI—particularly in the HAZMAT areas.

"That's something that's unique for a military training post," said Installation Commander Colonel Chris Schnaubelt. "It gives us the capability to link military and law enforcement first responders."

That unique military-civilian blend appears to be carrying over to the tactical arena as Camp San Luis Obispo plans to improve its facilities.

"We have mock villages for law enforcement-type combat which we plan to expand to support military operations on urban terrain type villages," said Schnaubelt. "You could have law enforcement and military training side by side with some cross training. With the CSTI HAZMAT capability, you could perform weapons of mass destruction consequence management training."

This is only the "tip of the iceberg" for Camp San Luis Obispo's future. California Guard Commander, Major General Dennis Kenneally challenged Camp San Luis Obispo to improve its facilities to meet the state's and nation's defense needs.

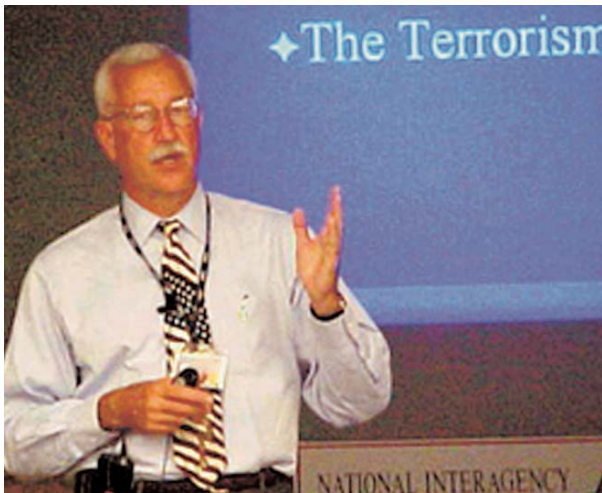
"Major General Kenneally wants us to

Both of the California National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams have trained at the California Specialized Training Institute at Camp San Luis Obispo.



expand and have a much larger role as a regional training center,” Schnaubelt said. “Particularly where we have the same group of courses we do right now, but expand our reputation and capabilities where we can start getting our active component soldiers trained here.”

The momentum is rapidly swinging that direction as the United States Army Reserve and National Guard units from the entire nation now view Camp San Luis Obispo just as qualified, and as good an experience as any active component program, according to Schnaubelt. “We conduct the Officer Candidate School, Military Occupational School reclassification for armor, infantry, and several maintenance specialties—that are also conducted up at Camp Roberts at the maintenance regional training site,” Schnaubelt said. “Then we also do Noncommissioned Officer Education Schools for some of the



NICI's Jim Petroni speaks at the Consequence Management Terrorism course. The school occasionally exports some of its courses to agencies in California and other states.

combat arms and maintenance specialties, including the Basic Noncommissioned Officer and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses.”

The 223rd Infantry Regiment Combat Arms, Schnaubelt says, is part of The Army School System (TASS). Both National Guard and United States Army Reserve training sites are part of TASS. The 223rd has applied its knowledge of these systems to create a non-prior service training program. The program prepares recruits for basic training and encourages them to remain in the Guard between the time they're sworn in and the time they leave for basic training.

Camp San Luis Obispo is also poised to assume emergency or Homeland Security operations, if necessary. The Camp recently renovated a building to serve as the backup Emergency Operations Center where the

Sacramento Headquarters could move and continue command and control functions if the State Headquarters becomes unserviceable.

The Camp is postured to support future mobilizations. Camp San Luis Obispo has the facilities necessary to support the soldier readiness preparation, or SRP, and some training for prolonged mobilization periods. “There's a certain amount of space and facilities that we set aside in case of mobilization or for units that come here for annual training,” Schnaubelt said. “That requires a footprint in terms of barracks, office space, classrooms, and other facilities.”

The Camp has 11 separate dining facilities with the capability to feed more than 3,000 people. It has 11 assembly buildings, each with a 1,520-person capacity as well as more than 50 administrative and office buildings. The Camp maintains a heliport, a complete complex of



CSLO's Officer Candidate School Cadets endure a torturous ordeal of keeping their weapons above their heads as they march around the installation.

warehouses, workshops and maintenance facilities. Other supporting facilities include a chapel, two service clubs, two theaters, a laundry, and Post Exchange. The Post can house more than 2,000 troops and up to 3,500 under emergency conditions..

“We do have a long-range construction plan,” said Camp San Luis Obispo Garrison Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly Fisher, “The primary focus of our master plan is the requirement of federally funded facilities to support the Army National Guard mission.”

The Camp projects that the Post's infrastructure must grow to accommodate state and federal Homeland Security and Homeland Defense requirements. It's an investment that could prevent another 911. 🐾

Article by Major Stan Zezotarski, Headquarters, State Area Command.